



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

May 21, 2008

Dear Participant,

You are cordially invited to attend the June 2008 meeting of the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC), to be held in Woods Hole, Ma. during 23 – 26 June 2008. This is one of a series of meetings initiated in 1998 to provide joint peer review of assessments for resources shared by both Canada and the USA. At this meeting, the TRAC will consider assessments for Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock. Georges Bank yellowtail flounder will be reviewed 12-14 August 2008 after the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's 4-8 August Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (GARM). The results of both TRAC meetings will be reported to management agencies of both countries.

Terms of reference, a draft agenda, and a list of invitees and accommodations are attached.

The meeting will be held at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Woods Hole Laboratory in the Stephen H. Clark Conference Room. We would like to begin the meeting promptly at 9:00 am, Monday June 23rd, so please plan accordingly.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (508-495-2273). I look forward to seeing you in Woods Hole.

Sincerely

L. O'Brien

Attachments (2)

cc: Tana Worchester
Nancy Thompson
Fred Serchuk
Paul Rago

Invitees
Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee
Assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Cod, and Haddock
NEFSC Stephen H. Clark Conference Room
Woods Hole, Ma.
23-26 June 2008

Co-Chairs

L. O'Brien
T. Worcester

DFO Maritimes (Canada)

Science staff (through notification of Managers)
J. Hansen (FAM)

NMFS Northeast

Science staff (through notification of Managers)
S. Murphy (NERO)
T. Warren (NERO)

Advisory / Industry / Other (Canada)

C. Reardon / C. Boudreau (NS Fisheries and Aquaculture)
R. Cronk / M. Johnson (NB Department of Fisheries)
M. O'Connor (Chair, TMGC)
B. Giroux (SFMGFA)
C. d'Entremont (Inshore Fisheries Ltd.)
T. Nickerson (SFIFA)
J. Maxwell (SFIFA)
C. Penney (Clearwater)
C. Gregan (Seafreez)
R. Stirling (SPANS)
B. Berry (Yarmouth County Community Board)
D. Morrow (South Western NS Fish Packers)
P. Van Buskirk (SWFRA)

Advisory / Industry / Other (US)

A. Ciocca – Seafood Buyer
B. Gerencer – Seafood buyer
B. Rothschild (SMAST)
C. Demarest (NEFMC)
D. Goethel (Fisherman/Council Member)

D. Borden (Mass. DMF)
D. Pierce (Mass. DMF)
D. Preble (Fisherman/Council Member)
G. Lapointe (Chair, TMGC)
J. Odell (Northeast Seafood Coalition)
J. Odlin (Fisherman/Council Member/TMGC)
J. Pappalardo (Fisherman/Council Member)
M. Raymond (Fishing Boat Owner/Associated Fisherman of Maine)
P. Parker (CCCHFA)
P. Ruhle (Fisherman)
R. Canastra (New Bedford Seafood Auction)
R. Marks (Fishing Industry Lobbyist)
R. Cunningham (Recreational Fisherman/Council member)
R. Avila (Boat Owner/Council Member)
S. McGee (Environmental Defense/Council Member)
S. Gehan (Lawyer/Industry Advocate)
S. Correia (Mass.DMF)
T. Stockwell (Maine DMR/Council Member)
T. Hill (Council Member)
T. Nies (NEFMC)
V. Giacalone – Boat Owner/Northeast Seafood Coalition

Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee
Assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Haddock & Yellowtail Flounder
Woods Hole
23-26 June 2008

Terms of Reference

Context

The TRAC annually obtains requests for harvest advice on transboundary resources from the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC). During February and April 2008, NMFS, through its Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (GARM) process, will review benchmarks and reference points for 20 Northeast Region groundfish stocks, including Georges Bank cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder. Those benchmark model formulations and reference points may have implications for the management units of cod and haddock on eastern Georges Bank and of yellowtail flounder on Georges Bank, for which TRAC provides harvest advice to TMGC. TRAC members have the opportunity to participate in the GARM peer review of the benchmarks and reference points.

Objectives

- For:
Eastern Georges Bank cod
Eastern Georges Bank haddock
Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
 - Evaluate the implications of the Georges Bank (5Z) GARM benchmark model review and GARM reference point review to determine if any revisions are appropriate for provision of 2009 harvest advice.
 - Review the biomass distribution relative to the USA/Canada boundary, updating results with the 2007 survey information, and apply the allocation shares formula.
- For:
Eastern Georges Bank cod
Eastern Georges Bank haddock
 - Apply the established benchmark assessments and any revised model formulations deemed appropriate, to report on the status of the stocks, updating results for the latest information from fisheries, including discard estimates, and research surveys and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
 - For a range of total catch values in 2009, estimate the risk that the 2009 fishing mortality rate would exceed 0.18 (cod) and 0.26 (haddock) respectively and the risk that the 2009

fishing mortality rate would exceed any revised fishing mortality reference for cod or haddock that is deemed appropriate.

- If stock condition is poor, for a range of total catch values in 2009, estimate the risk that the biomass at the beginning of 2010 would not achieve a 0%, 10% or 20% increase compared to the beginning of 2009.
- Draft terms of reference for 2009 June TRAC.
- Review process flowchart of TRAC/TMGC
- Other matters.

Outputs

TRAC Transboundary Status Reports for the cod and haddock management units
TRAC Reference Documents for the cod and haddock management units
TRAC Proceedings of meeting discussion

Participants

DFO Maritimes scientists and managers
NMFS Northeast Region scientists and managers
Canadian and US fishing industry
Provincial representatives (NB and NS)
NEFMC representatives

Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee
Assessment of Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder
(by correspondence)
12-14 August 2008

Terms of Reference

Context

The TRAC annually obtains requests for harvest advice on transboundary resources from the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC). During February and April 2008, NMFS, through its Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (GARM) process, will review benchmarks and reference points for 20 Northeast Region groundfish stocks, including Georges Bank cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder. Those benchmark model formulations and reference points may have implications for the management units of cod and haddock on eastern Georges Bank and of yellowtail flounder on Georges Bank, for which TRAC provides harvest advice to TMGC. TRAC members have the opportunity to participate in the GARM peer review of the benchmarks and reference points.

Objectives

- For: Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
 - Apply the established benchmark assessment and any revised model formulations deemed appropriate, to report on the status of the stock, updating results for the latest information from fisheries, including discard estimates, and research surveys and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
 - For a range of total catch values in 2009, estimate the risk that the 2009 fishing mortality rate would exceed 0.25 and the risk that the 2009 fishing mortality rate would exceed any revised fishing mortality reference that is deemed appropriate.
 - If stock condition is poor, for a range of total catch values in 2009, estimate the risk that the biomass at the beginning of 2010 would not achieve a 0%, 10% or 20% increase compared to the beginning of 2009.
- Other matters.

Outputs

TRAC Transboundary Status Reports for the yellowtail flounder management unit
TRAC Reference Documents for the yellowtail flounder management unit
TRAC Proceedings of meeting discussion

Participants

DFO Maritimes scientists and managers
NMFS Northeast Region scientists and managers
Canadian and US fishing industry
Provincial representatives (NB and NS)
NEFMC representatives

Proposed Agenda

Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee
Assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Cod and Haddock
NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory Stephen H. Clark Conference Room
23-26 June 2008

23 June 2008 – Monday

9:00– 9:30 Welcome and Introduction (Chairs)

09:30 – 10:30 Georges Bank cod (Clark,O’Brien)

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 - 12:00 Georges Bank cod (Clark,O’Brien)

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 Eastern Georges Bank haddock (Van Eeckhaute, Brooks)

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:15 Implications of 5Z GARM benchmark assessments and Biological Reference
Point review

4:15 - 5:00 Review process flowchart of TRAC/TMGC

24 June 2008 – Tuesday

8:30 – 9:00 Biomass Distribution (Gavaris, O’Brien)

9:00 – 10:00 Report Preparation

10:00 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 12:00 Report Preparation

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 5:00 Report Preparation

25 June 2008 – Wednesday

08:30 – 12:00 Report Review

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 Report Review

4:00 – 5 :00 Draft Terms of Reference 2009 June TRAC

26 June 2008 – Thursday ..if needed

08:30 – 12:00 Report Review

12:00 Adjournment

There are many lodging facilities within the Falmouth area, though many are seasonal. Listed below you will find several local establishments. You may find more choices by visiting the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce website at: <http://www.falmouthchamber.com/>

Some facilities offer USA or Canadian Government rate, so please ask.

All hotels listed below are within 5-7 miles of the NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory located at 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

Directions to the lab can be found at:
<http://localonly.wh.who.edu/NEFSC/directions/woodshole.html>

Holiday Inn

291 Jones Road
Falmouth, MA 02540
Hotel Telephone: 1-508-540-2000
Hotel Fax: 1-508-548-2712
Book On line or Call 1-800-315-2621
website: <http://www.capecodhi.com/>

Inn on the Square

40 North Main Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
Hotel Telephone: 1-(888) 744-5394
website: <http://www.innonthesquare.com/>

Coonamessett Inn

311 Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
Hotel Telephone: 1-508-548-2300
<http://www.capecodrestaurants.org/coonamessett/>

Red Horse Inn

28 Falmouth Heights Road
Falmouth, MA 02540
Hotel Telephone: 1-800-628-3811
Hotel Telephone: 1-508-548-0053
Website: <http://www.redhorseinn.com/about.shtml>

Mostly Hall

27 Main Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
Hotel Telephone: 508.548.3786
Website: <http://www.mostlyhall.com/>